



“El Duque” Victor Samuel introduces his latest CD

Just in time for holiday shopping, lovers of classic Latin ballads have the perfect gift awaiting them at CD and bookstores. Victor Samuel baptized his CD in the presence of family and friends at the Verona Wine Bar on Wednesday, October 18, and the introduction was as musically stirring as the collection.

A fine selection of ballads, boleros, with a mix of meringues with just a dash of soca makes a diverse collection of enjoyable listening, particularly when performed in Victor’s rich baritone and dynamic delivery. Percy Jeandor and Padu Lampe, who is the composer of a number of the songs on the CD joined with Vivian Lampe, who produced it along with Victor in performing the inaugural ablutions of the new release. Victor then regaled the gathering with several renditions of his favorite songs, with Percy and a number of the attendees joining in, while Padu accompanied him on the piano.

The CD consists of fifteen selections, many composed by Victor alone and in partnership with Padu, Chicho Kock, Tony Derwin, and Vivian, There are also pieces by Alejandro Jaen, Jossy Brokke, Rafael Hernandez, Oscar Gutierrez and Luis Cisneros.

Franklin Granadillo and Johnny Scharbaay acted as musical directors for the production of the CD, which was recorded in Aruba and Ecuador. A number of renowned musicians are performing with Victor on the CD, including Padu, Johnny Scharbaay, Eduardo Maya and Delbert Bernabela.

The CD contains new compositions and some favorite standards, which appeared to be well known to the gathering as they sang along with Victor, who appeared to relish sharing the microphone. They took over the Verona Wine Bar on Wednesday evening, much to the surprise and delight of the other customers. Victor’s range and delivery are perfectly suited to this music, and even in this casual gathering, he performed the only way he knows how, with a powerful energy that filled the café.

If you are looking for a stocking stuffer for those that you know love the Latin sound, it makes the perfect gift!